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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 July 1995 from Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, giving information on the hostile and provocative actions undertaken by United States and other aircraft while violating Iraqi airspace.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 July 1995 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to refer to my letter of 7 January 1995, in which I gave detailed information on the hostile and provocative actions undertaken by United States and other aircraft while violating Iraqi airspace from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

I should like in the present letter to alert you to the fact that United States and other war-planes have continued to engage in such hostile and provocative actions as breaking the sound barrier and dropping heat flares and that there has also been provocation of and interference with Iraq's merchant vessels in the country's territorial waters. These incidents, examples of which are set forth hereunder, were reported and documented by the competent Iraqi authorities at the time they occurred.

1. At 1100 hours on 4 January 1995 a hostile formation dropped 10 heat flares on the Qush area of Ninawa Governorate.

2. At 1105 hours on 4 January 1995 a hostile formation dropped 10 heat flares on the village of Badriyah, south of Dohuk.

3. At 1305, 1112 and 1408 hours on 10, 13 and 19 January 1995 a hostile two-aircraft formation broke the sound barrier over the town of Qurnah in Maysan Governorate.

4. At 1305 hours on 11 January 1995 hostile aircraft flying at low altitudes broke the sound barrier over the complex belonging to the State Establishment for the Petrochemical Industries in Basra Governorate, the strong shock waves produced causing physical damage and the breakdown of some items of equipment and machinery.

5. At 1415 hours on 19 January 1995 United States frigate No. 48 demanded from the water- and fuel-tanker Al-Tharthar information relating to the vessel and its crew and then required it to proceed at a slow speed and assigned a boat and a helicopter to escort it. The members of the crew were required to present themselves on deck for visual inspection. Seventeen men armed with light weapons and carrying flashlights, radio equipment and video cameras were then sent in a rubber boat to board the tanker. They deployed in various parts of the vessel, and one group mounted to the bridge and demanded to be shown the documents relating to its ownership, cargo and specifications. The relevant certificates were provided to them. They then proceeded to photograph various parts of the ship and to film it with the video cameras, both from the deck and from the helicopter. They proceeded to search the ship and its storage tanks, took samples of the water being carried as cargo and of the gas oil and inspected all of its papers and cargo. They subsequently withdrew to the frigate at 1730 hours.

6. At 1230 hours on 11 February 1995 hostile aircraft dropped 10 heat flares in Ninawa Governorate.

7. At 1420 hours on 22 February 1995 aggressor aircraft dropped three heat flares on the Dumiz residential neighbourhood in the Fayidah area of Dohuk Governorate.

8. At 1330 hours on 1 February 1995, while the Iraqi fishing boat Al-Bay'ah was fishing inside Iraqi territorial waters nine nautical miles south of Mina' al-Bakr, members of the crew were questioned in a provocative manner by United States Navy vessel No. 33. The vessel was required to approach to a distance of 500 yards for its contents to be examined and for information concerning them to be furnished. The same action was repeated on 2 February 1995.

9. At 1520, 1607 and 1816 hours on 15 March 1995 a hostile two-aircraft formation broke the sound barrier over Nasiriyah and Qal'at Salih.

10. At 0830 hours on 24 March 1995, while it was proceeding from the Basra silo to the Umm Qasr silo inside Iraqi territorial waters, the Iraqi vessel Al-Fida' was followed and challenged by a United States helicopter in the Khawt al-Amayah area of the Arabian Gulf.

11. At 1830 hours on 4 April 1995 a hostile two-aircraft formation broke the sound barrier over the city of Samawah in Muthanna Governorate. This caused breakage of glass in buildings in the city and spread alarm and panic among the people of the area.

12. While the Iraqi coastal vessel Al-Bay'ah was on a fishing expedition between 16 and 26 April 1995 it was provoked and obstructed by a United States frigate which escorted it while it was under way. The frigate was on station between Mina' al-Amayah and Mina' al-Bakr inside Iraqi territorial waters.

13. At 2130 hours on 20 June 1995 a formation of hostile aircraft dropped 10 heat flares on the village of Suwayf in the Saddamiyat al-Qurnah district.

Just as we condemn these acts of aggression and provocation, we also hold the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully responsible for their complicity in the perpetration of such acts of aggression against Iraq and for the serious physical damage that they cause and the threats of a security-related, economic, political and moral nature that they pose to Iraq and the Iraqi people.

(Signed) Hamid Yusuf HAMMADI
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq